

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 AGR-05 USIA-06 AID-05 EB-07 EUR-12 COME-00

ISO-00 TRSE-00 L-03 FRB-03 OMB-01 ITC-01 SP-02

CIAE-00 INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00 OIC-02 SIL-01 STR-04

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FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0098

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

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FODAG

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: FAO, OCON

SUBJECT: EARLY MEETING OF FAO COMMITTEE ON COMMODITY PROBLEMS.

REF: ROME 14676

1. LEEKS, ACTING DIRECTOR OF FAO'S ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL POLICY DIVISION, SOUGHT REPORTING OFFICER OUT TO SEEK U.S. POSITION ON EARLY MEETING OF FAO'S COMMITTEE ON COMMODITY PROBLEMS (CCP). LEEKS NOTED THAT IN PRESENT FAO CONFERENCE SCHEDULE, THE CCP IS LISTED AS UNDERTERMINED. HOWEVER, USUALLY CCP MEETS IN FALL SO THAT A REASONABLE PICTURE OF GRAIN HARVEST IS AVAILABLE, IT IS CLOSE TO FAO COUNCIL OR CONFERENCE, AND SUBSIDIARY COMMODITY GROUPS HAVE HAD TIME TO REPORT. NOW, A NUMBER OF COUNTRIES HAVE SUGGESTED AN EARLY SPRING 1977 MEETING OF CCP.

2. LEEKS WOULD LIKE TO KNOW WHAT USG'S POSITION IS ON SCHEDULING OF CCP. IT IS MEMBER STATES' MEETING AND THEIR WISHES SHOULD BE FOLLOWED. AN EARLIER DATE, LEEKS NOTED, WOULD HAVE TO BE AGREED

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ON SOON IF PREPARATIONS ARE TO BE READY BY SPRING 1977. ALSO

A SPRING 1977 DATE WOULD NECESSITATE A REVISED AGENDA AS USUAL TOPICS WOULD NOT BE READY FOR DECISION. ALSO NOTE COMMITTEE ON WORLD FOOD SECURITY HAS MOVED INTO THIS ASPECT OF CCP'S WORK.

3. LEEKS GAVE RATIONALE FOR EARLY MEETING OF CCP AS DESIRE FOR CCP TO ASSERT ITSELF IN COMMODITY DEBATES, I.E. UNCTAD INTEGRATED COMMODITY PROGRAM. ALSO GENERAL FEELING THAT TWO YEARS WAS TOO LONG TO PASS BETWEEN MEETINGS OF CCP.

4. RYAN, CANADIAN NATIONAL IN SAME DIVISION, MADE SAME PITCH TO REPORTING OFFICER EXCEPT HE TOOK STRONG LINE IN FAVOR OF EARLY CCP MEETING WHILE CITING TALK WITH LEEKS. RYAN SEES THIS AS CHANCE TO MOVE CCP FROM PERFUNCTORY BODY DEALING WITH REPORTS FROM COMMODITY GROUPS AND FOOD RESERVES TO A FORUM FOR A REAL DISCUSSION OF AGRICULTURAL COMMODITY POLICIES.

5. REPORTING OFFICER COMMENTED HE KNEW SOME MEMBERS OF GENEVA GROUP HAD FAVORED EARLY MEETING OF CCP AND HE UNDERSTOOD USG IN PROCESS OF PREPARING A POSITION WHICH HE WOULD RELAY TO LEEKS. VOLPE

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